

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace paragraph [0014] with the following amended paragraph:

[0014]       The near shoulder strap 20 may include a padded section 24 conforming to the shoulder 26 closest to the harness 16 and infant 14. Preferably, the padded section 24 is constructed of a flexible knit material to provide comfort to the adult 12. The near shoulder strap may also be optionally adjustable in length. The adjustability of the length of the near shoulder strap 20 may be accomplished by strap adjusters 28 (FIG. 2 3), allowing the lengthening or shortening of the near shoulder strap 20. The near shoulder strap 20 may be configured in any fashion, which allows the near shoulder 26 to bear a portion of the weight of the infant.